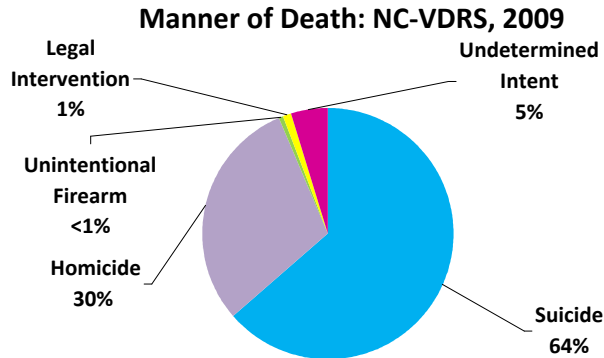


# VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes all deaths from violence among North Carolina residents for 2009.

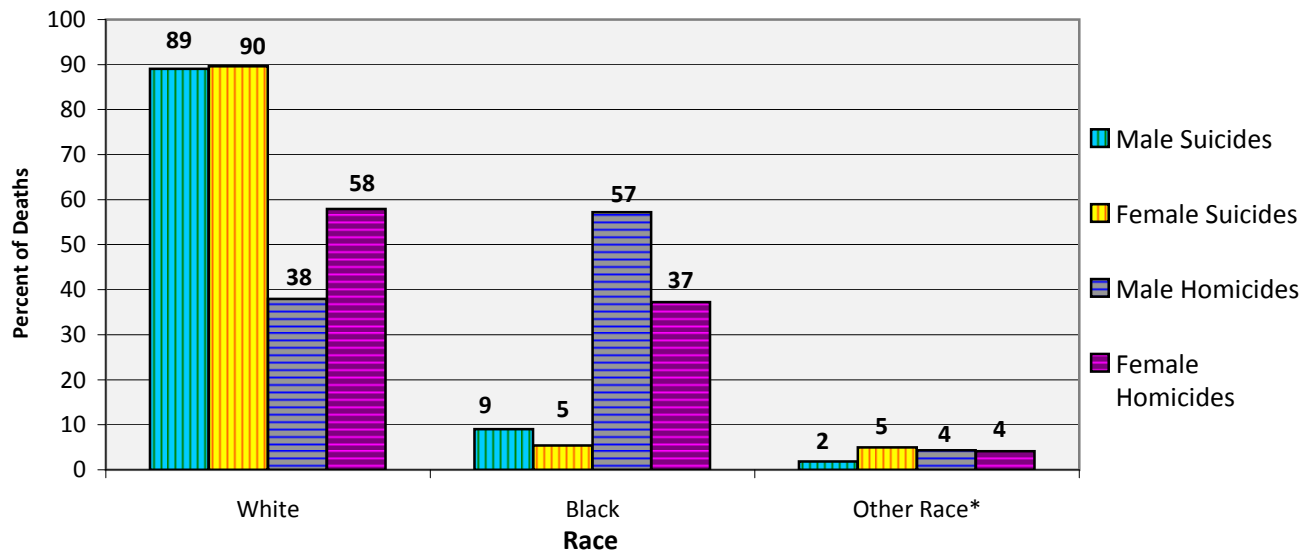


- In 2009, 1,815 North Carolina residents died by violence.

- There were 1,157 suicides (64 %), 540 homicides (30 %), 22 deaths from legal interventions (1 %), 10 unintentional firearm deaths (<1 %) and 86 deaths of undetermined intent (5 %) in 2009.

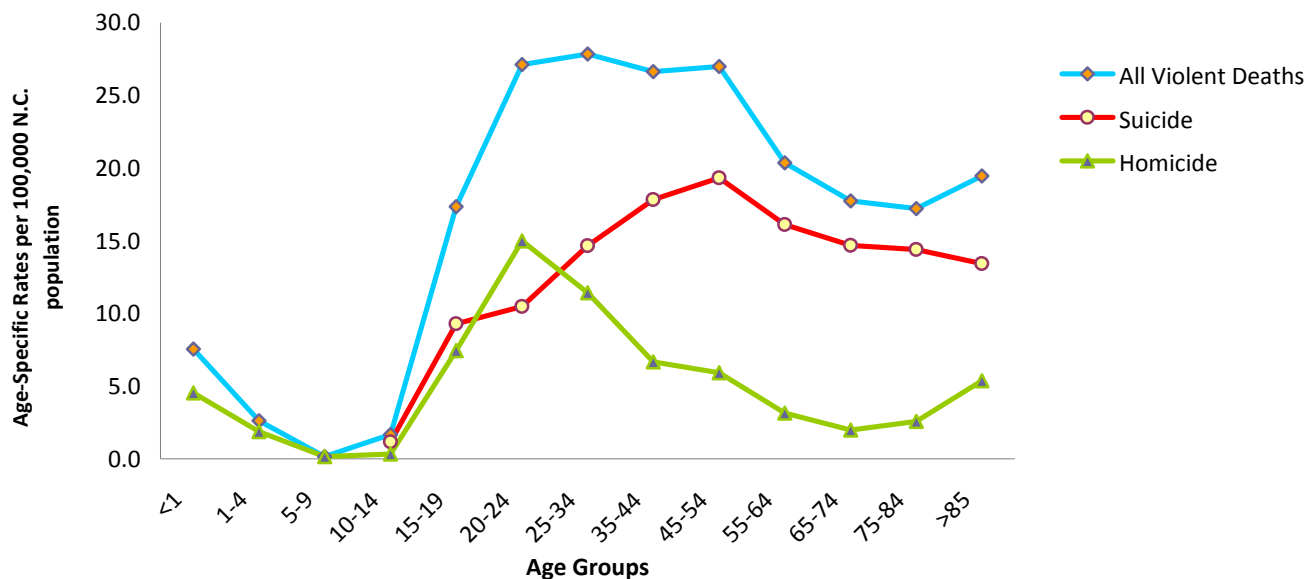
- The majority of suicide and homicide victims were male. Males accounted for 79 percent of suicide victims and 73 percent of homicide victims.
- Patterns of suicides and homicides differed by race. Most suicide victims were white (89 %), while 8 percent were black.
- In contrast, approximately 52 percent of homicide victims were black, and 43 percent were white.

**Violent Deaths by Gender and Race: NC-VDRS, 2009**



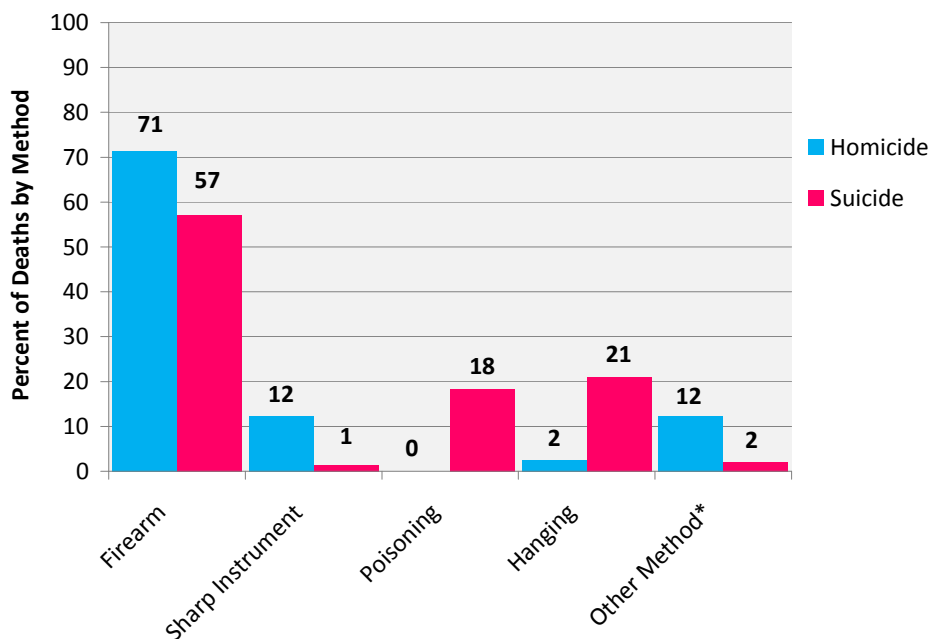
\*Other includes American Indians, Asians, and other races.

## Violent Death Rates by Age Group: NC-VDRS, 2009



- Suicides and homicides displayed different age patterns.
- Homicide rates peaked in the 20 - 34 year age group, with smaller peaks in infants and adults 85 and over.
- Suicide rates rose steadily between 10 - 54 years of age and then declined with age.

## Method of Death: NC-VDRS, 2009



- The majority of homicides (71 %) and suicides (57 %) were committed using firearms.
- The second most common method of homicide was sharp instruments (12 %).
- The second most common method of suicide was hanging (21 %).

\*Other includes fire/burns, unarmed assault, blunt trauma, falls, and other methods of death.

North Carolina Violent Death  
**NCVDRS**  
 Reporting System

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N.C. Division of Public Health / [www.publichealth.nc.gov](http://www.publichealth.nc.gov) / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425  
 N.C. Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432  
 State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / [www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov)  
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